



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, community health centers are non-profit, community-owned and operated organizations that provide access to health care for all New Yorkers, regardless of their insurance status or their ability to pay; and

Whereas, community health care centers offer comprehensive primary and preventative health care services to approximately 1.7 million New Yorkers annually, two-thirds of which live at or below the federal poverty level; and

Whereas, community health centers serve the health and well-being of the residents of New York State's urban, suburban, and rural communities, and their comprehensive model for delivering primary and preventive care has been recognized as one of the most successful at improving health outcomes and reducing health care costs; and

Whereas, community health centers have a strong record of excellence in care, disparities reduction, cost-effectiveness, and community benefit by fostering prevention and integrating the delivery of primary care with enabling services including aggressive outreach, patient education, and translation services; and

Whereas, community health centers educate and facilitate enrollment of eligible uninsured patients and service area residents into affordable health insurance coverage through the New York State of Health; and

Whereas, community health centers locally, regionally, and throughout the state are participating in chronic disease management projects that reduce disparities, improve health outcomes, and decrease costs; and

Whereas, community health centers work to reduce inappropriate emergency department usage and unnecessary hospitalizations by providing essential services known to be effective in preventing and managing chronic illness, such as: early disease identification and intervention, care management and coordination, and patient engagement; and

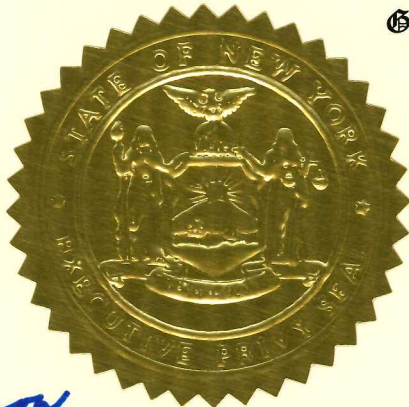
Whereas, New York State joins in this year's national observance of "Health Center Week" and its theme, "America's Health Centers: Celebrating Our Legacy, Shaping Our Future," highlighting the community health center movement's 50 years of expanding access to quality, affordable primary and preventive health care services to millions of uninsured and medically underserved people across our state and nation; we recognize that health centers have a significant role in transforming health care by helping to create high-performing health systems and empowering patients to more fully participate in their own health care;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim August 9-15, 2015 as

HEALTH CENTER WEEK

in the Empire State and recognize the important contributions of community health centers in safeguarding the health and improving the quality of life for all people throughout our state and nation.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-seventh day of July in the year two thousand fifteen.



Governor

Washam J. Mahon
Secretary to the Governor